



CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

P.O. BOX 1200

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

June 5, 2002

Mr. Craig J. Wilson, Chief
Monitoring and TMDL Listing Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Revision of California's Clean Act, Section 303 (d), List of Water Quality

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The City of Costa Mesa has reviewed the proposed list of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's Section 303 (d) recommendations. The City would like to take this opportunity to commend the positive efforts of the State and Regional Boards towards the water quality objectives. Herein are some comments on the proposed list as it relates to the Santa Ana Delhi Channel:

- The Santa Ana-Delhi Channel, as a whole, is not conducive in its entirety for either a REC-1 or REC-2 use and would be extremely dangerous during rain events. In addition, it has restricted public access and is gated and fenced for flood control purposes; therefore, recreation is very unlikely to occur in this channel. Mandating that the water quality in the channel meets recreational swimming standards is, we believe, unwarranted.
- The tidal prism of the Santa Ana-Delhi Channel is partially within an ecological reserve operated by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DFG prohibits swimming within the reserve.
- The City is concerned that inappropriate water quality objectives and designated beneficial uses are being applied to the Santa Ana-Delhi Channel. Suitable designations are essential to regulating water quality effectively and appropriately. The City believes the selection of beneficial uses should be made with consideration of the condition of a water body, the overall advantage of achieving a given use, and the cost of achieving this goal.
- The basin plan has no established beneficial uses for the Santa Ana-Delhi Channel.

8.14

Mr. Craig J. Wilson

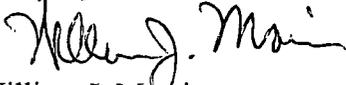
Page 2

June 5, 2002

- It is requested that the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board define water quality criteria in terms of frequency, magnitude, and duration so that the 303 (d) list would be formulated with consideration of these factors. Subsequent Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) based upon water quality objectives would then be more reasonably enforceable.
- Three years have transpired since the data for the proposed listing was collected. The fecal coliform data available for comparison with the REC-1 and REC-2 objectives is dated and may not reflect current conditions.

Based on the above comments, the City of Costa Mesa is respectfully requesting that the Santa Ana-Delhi Channel be removed from the proposed 303 (d). If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ernesto Munoz, City Engineer, at 714-754-5173.

Sincerely,



William J. Morris

Director of Public Services

MN/ch

- c: Mayor Linda Dixon
Allan Roeder, City Manager
Ed Fawcett, Exec. Director, Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Ernesto Munoz, City Engineer
Maher Nawar, Assistant Engineer
Linda Nguyen, Deputy City Attorney
Sheila Kennedy, Hunter-Kennedy & Assoc.